(b) if so, when this would be implemented; and

(c) if not, Government's decision about these families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has identified revenue land for settlement of post-1978 encroachers of forest land. The identified land falls under the category of 'Deemed Forest'. Since the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has restrained regularisation of encroachment of forest land, the Union Territory Administration has approached the Hon'ble court for the said purpose.

Sewrei Nhava Trans Harbour Link

4692. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Sewrei Nhava Trans Harbour Link proposed to be established at an estimated cost of Rs.2,600 crores in Mumbai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bombay Natural History Society has expressed concern and stated that it threatens the flamingos-one of the most primitive species; and

(c) if so, how far the project would affect the flamingos and other migrant wanderers & birds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, submitted by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), it is indicated that there will be temporary impacts to the migratory birds such as flamingos due to increase in noise levels during construction. The MSRDC have proposed mitigative steps to minimise the impact to the migratory birds, which include erecting screens, curtains to mitigate noise, staggering of construction period to the extent possible so that the work is not done

during annual peak migration of birds and appointment of a Bird Monitor to observe the change in behaviour of migratory birds during construction period.

Mangroves of Bhitarkanika

4693. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposed industrialization along the Brahmani river in Orissa is likely to spell doom for the rich mangrove vegetation in Bhitarkanika National Park;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is feared that if the water of the Brahmani river is diverted for industrial use, the mangrove forest straddling coastal Kendrapara and Bhadrak district might disappear by 2010; and

(c) if so, whether Government have assessed the situation so as to ensure the health of mangroves of Bhitarkanika?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) It is correct to state that a number of industries are located along the stretches of river Brahmani in Orissa. However, at present, there is no evidence of their adverse impact on mangroves in the Bhitarkanika National Park. A study published by MS Swaminathan Research foundation in July 2004 on Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary brings out that there is infact an increase in the mangrove area in 2004 as compared to the 1985 level.

(b) The mangroves need the right mixture of fresh and saline water in deltaic regions. Any significant decrease in fresh water flow to inter-tidal zone can affect both diversity and biomass of mangrove ecosystems. As such, maintaining the inflow of freshwater in appropriate quantum is essential. At present, the mangroves are protected through a range of regulatory measures like Coastal Regulation zone Notification, 1991; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies under the EIA Notification, 1994 for specialized industries; monitoring compliance, with conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance, with conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance, by Regional Offices of the Ministry and State Pollution Control Boards; enforcement of emission and effluent standards by industries and other entities, and recourse to legal action against the defaulters.